

## Grand Forks BBQ Highlights

### Membership Report

Total members – 118

We have 4 new members since our April meeting.

Ann Weiss transferred from Kamloops branch in June

Ted Robinson and Jan Laverne joined in July

Denis Doyle transferred from Kelowna branch in July

Tim Corcoran passed away on July 12<sup>th</sup> after an extended battle with cancer. Our condolences go to his wife Barb Wegert.

### Photo contest

11 people submitted 48 photos.

**1<sup>st</sup> place was a tie** between

– **Kootenay Colours** by **Greg Belyea &**

– **Cedar Waxwing** by **Gord LeSergent,**

The first and second place prizes will be split between them, so each will receive \$40.00

3<sup>rd</sup> place goes to **Wilgress Lake** by **Dan Harlow**, he will receive \$20

We want to thank everybody who submitted photos. Please continue sending photos as we would like to rotate the Branch 400 web page occasionally.

You can view the photo gallery at: [Grand Forks \(Branch 400\) – British Columbia Government Retired Employees' Association \(bcgre.ca\)](http://Grand Forks (Branch 400) – British Columbia Government Retired Employees' Association (bcgre.ca))

Dan Harlow presented **Len Hansen** with his Life Membership Certificate



## Results of membership poll regarding meetings

11 members responded.

- There was a clear preference for 3 meetings / year with 10 in favour.
- 8 of 11 preferred luncheon gatherings
- Speaker types were 5 for community speakers, 3 for COSCO type presentations, and 3 for no guest speakers – social only.

Comments:

Do you have suggestions for any outings or field trips?	Suggestions for gathering rentals / venues?	Suggestions for food service?	Other topics or suggestions?
Lunch isn't always necessary, maybe reserve that for Christmas and the bbq. The April meeting could be coffee, tea and doughnuts.	The New Century restaurant seems near ideal with the accordion wall. No hall rental or liability insurance to worry about and food and drink available if wanted.	see above	COSCO as well but I don't think we need a guest speaker or presentation for every meeting. Maybe once a year.
None - at this time.	I am still unfamiliar with all of the possible venues.	nothing particular comes to mind	If no presentation, then allow for casual socialization. Or card game/board game get togethers such as cribbage, scrabble, etc.
Museums, art galleries, hikes, tours.	We love the picnic at the museum. Station pub in a meeting room.		
		Catered lunches at the senior's center or alternative location.	Invite a RCMP speaker to speak on current issues senior's have. Security and Scams.
For spring meeting, I am ok with coffee/tea/light refreshment and strictly business meeting.	Some churches might offer inexpensive rental, but do not know about providing light snack/meal.		all of the above is ok with me. Poll only allows to select one.

## Guest speaker – Brian Green, BCGREA Provincial President

### Highlights:

Brian mentioned the strong turnout and said that Victoria branch would need an auditorium to host a similar percentage of members for their branch.

Brian stated that 75% of our pension payments come from investment earnings vs 25% from direct contributions. This highlights the need to defend the ability to invest wisely and not be faced with constraints placed on investment opportunities such as are currently being suggested by the federal government and business interests. He compared our situation with the Quebec pension fund which has a 2 to 3% lower yield.

He pointed out that the BCGREA is the only retiree association that directly appoints a trustee to sit on the Board of Trustees that administers our pension.

Discussion about various affinity partner benefits that members may not be familiar with, such as Johnson house insurance (with fire risk assessment), Endless Savings and More who have potential cell plan savings, and Accent Inns in BC.

We do not have direct input about the Extended Health and Dental Benefits supplier, but we have some ability to raise issues on behalf of members.

